

OPEN STREETS FACTS



When is Open Street Akron?

Open Streets Akron will be Sunday, June 25 from 12 – 5 pm. You can come anytime, stay as long as you'd like, and park or join activities at any point along the route.

What is the route?

The route is a total of 4.3 miles connecting Kenmore, Summit Lake, and the Firestone Park communities. The route will include Kenmore Boulevard, the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail, Wilbeth Road, Firestone Parkway, East and South Firestone Boulevards. Please see the map of the route at www.akronohio.gov/recreation

What are open streets?

Open streets initiatives temporarily close streets to automobile traffic, so that people may use them for walking, bicycling, dancing, playing, and socializing. They return streets to their historic origin as a place for people.

Today, there are more than 90 Open Streets initiatives in the United States and Canada. People traffic replaces car traffic, and the streets become 'paved parks' where people of all ages, abilities, and social, economic, or ethnic backgrounds can come out and improve their mental, physical, and emotional health.

How is Open Streets Akron different from a Festival or a Street Fair?

The core objectives are fundamentally different. Indeed, Open Streets are typically part of a broader city or organizational effort to encourage sustained physical activity, increase community engagement, and build support for the provision of broader transportation choices.

What can I bring to Open Streets Akron?

Bring your bikes, skateboards, jump ropes, water to stay hydrated, and your smile. You'll be smiling, a lot. We'll have volunteers available to answer questions as well as an Information Booth in Kenmore, Summit Lake and Firestone Park.

What can I expect at Open Streets Akron?

We will have activity hubs in Kenmore, Summit Lake and Firestone Park. Activities will include free bike rental, kids craft tents in each community, pet adoptions in Kenmore, live bands in Kenmore and Firestone Park, costume characters, mobile skate park in Kenmore, fishing derby at Summit Lake, car show, healthy living information, disc golf, chalk art, food, ice cream social in Firestone Park, and much more. These events will be continuous through the event. While there will be activity hubs for people to participate in, Open Streets is about creating YOUR own urban playground experiences.

Are the streets totally closed for traffic?

The official route will be closed to traffic. Please be mindful along the route that cars could be allowed in the opposing lane next to you or some intersections may be open to traffic. Police officers will be stationed along the route to keep everyone safe.

Will there be a way to get transported from one end of the route to the other end?

Yes. The City of Akron Trolley will be doing a loop between Kenmore, Summit Lake and Firestone Park so you can park in one location, walk or cycle the route, and then take the trolley back to the community where you parked. Trolley stops will be located at:

1. North Firestone Boulevard and Aster Avenue
2. W. Wilbeth Road at the Towpath Trailhead
3. Kenmore Boulevard at Manchester Road
4. Kenmore Boulevard at 16th Street SW
5. Lakeshore Boulevard at W. Crosier Street

Will there be restrooms?

Yes. Our three community centers along the route will be open for restroom use and temporary restrooms will be available at the Wilbeth Road Trailhead and on Aster Avenue in Firestone Park.

Where can I park?

There are parking areas along the route. All parking will be free. We also encourage cycling to the event. If you drive to the event, free bike rental will be available along the route.

Are pets allowed?

Pets are allowed, however, you must provide your own bags for clean-up. We will have doggie stations in Kenmore and Firestone Park to keep your canine friends hydrated and happy. Dogs MUST be leashed at all times. The Humane Society of Summit County will have their new mobile adoption center in Kenmore for a limited time during the event. Visit the trailer to look at adoptable pets!

Will Open Streets have food?

Open Streets will have food. Existing establishments along the route will be open. Food trucks will be located on Aster Avenue in Firestone Park. Summit Lake will be offering free picnic food for patrons and Firestone Park will be offering a free ice cream social at the community center. Water stations will also be located along the route. Be sure to check out the water station at Metro located at Lakeshore and Kenmore Boulevard!